

Message Text

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11/44S

ACTION EA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2655

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CINCPACREPPHIL

HQ 13AF CLARK AB PI

S E C R E T MANILA 5361

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECT GARBLED PARAGRAPH 7.)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMER, SREF, VS, RP, US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH MARCOS APRIL 25

REF: A. STATE 095324 B. STATE 095769 C. CINCPACFLT 241047Z

1. MY MEETING WITH MARCOS MORNING APRIL 25 ON SUBJECT VIET-NAM EVACUATION TURNED INTO WIDE-RANGING AND INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION JOINED BY MOST RELEVANT MEMBERS OF CABINET, AND COVERED (A) CURRENT STAGING FLIGHTS THROUGH CLARK AND GUAM, (B) CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR LARGE SCALE E AND E, (C) GOP ATTITUDE TOWARDS POTENTIAL VIETNAMESE EXODUS, AND (D) HUTENTIAL PROBLEM OF VIETNAMESE WARSHIPS AND MILITARY

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AIRCRAFT SEEKING SAFEHAVEN IN PHILIPPINES.

2. MARCOS BEGAN MEETING BY ASKING LATEST EMBASSY INFORMATION ON SITUATION IN VIET-NAM AND WITH RESPECT EVACUATION MEASURES. WHEN I DREW ON FACTS AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY AND BEGAN TO TOUCH ON INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REF A, HE STOPPED ME AND ASKED THAT WE BE JOINED BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR, FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO, DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT PELAEZ, FORMER SENATE PRESIDENT PUYAT, INDUSTRIES SECRETARY PATERNO, AND FINANCE SECRETARY VIRATA, ALL OF WHOM WERE ASSEMBLED IN CABINET ROOM FOR MEETING OF FOREIGN POLICY COUNCIL.

3. IN COURSE OF ONE-HOUR DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED, SEVERAL DIVERGENCIES DEVELOPED AMONG CABINET OFFICERS, AND MARCOS DECIDED HE WOULD HAVE TO THRASH OUT IN PRIVATE BEFORE HE COULD GIVE ME ANSWERS TO MY DEMARCHE. IN GENERAL, ROMULO WAS INCLINED TO BE MOST CAUTIOUS AND TO STRESS POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF ROUSING HANOI'S IRE. MELCHOR WAS INCLINED TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE AND STRESS HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF PROBLEM. ENRILE WAS MOST INTERESTED IN VIETNAMESE MILITARY UNITS WHICH MIGHT COME HERE. I WILL DISCUSS SUBJECTS SEQUENTIALLY BELOW.

4. CURRENT STAGING FLIGHTS. SINCE MY CONVERSATION TOOK PLACE PRIOR RECEIPT REF B, I TOLD MARCOS WE EXPECTED CLEAR CLARK BACKLOG BY SUNDAY AND THEREAFTER TO OVERFLY IN CURRENT TYPE OPERATIONS. I EXPLAINED THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN FILIPINO-AFFILIATED VIETNAMESE AT CLARK (WIVES, COMMON-LAW WIVES, CHILDREN) ABOUT WHOM WE WERE IN TOUCH WITH FOREIGN OFFICE. MARCOS EXPRESSED APPRECIATION. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT "GUIDELINES" ISSUED BY FOREIGN OFFICE WERE INTENDED TO ESTABLISH GOP DESIDERATA, BUT THAT HE UNDERSTOOD EXIGENCIES OF TRANSPORTATION MIGHT CAUSE OCCASIONAL SLIPPAGE FROM GUIDELINE. COMMENT: FROM THIS EXCHANGE, I ASSUME GOP WOULD TOLERATE SOME ADJUSTMENTS TO OUR CLARK CLEARANCE SCHEDULE AS FORESHADOWED REF B, BUT WOULD NOT RPT NOT ACCEPT ESTABLISHMENT CLARK AS "STAGING AREA." MELCHOR, INCIDENTALLY, OFFERED PAL OR PHIL GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED AIRCRAFT FOR U.S. CHARTER IF WE NEEDED

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EXTRA LIFT. I HAVE SINCE DETERMINED THAT LIFT IS NOT OUR CURRENT PROBLEM AND WILL SO INFORM MELCHOR.

5. CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR LARGE-SCALE E AND E. THIS WAS SUBJECT THAT CAUSED MOST CONTROVERSY SINCE PHILS HAD DIFFICULTY GRASPING PLANS WE MIGHT HAVE IN MIND. I DRAW ON REF C TO STATE THAT OUR PREFERENCE WAS TO SAIL REFUGEES STRAIGHT FROM VIET-NAM TO GUAM, BUT THAT WE MIGHT,

FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS, HAVE TO DO SOME LOAD ADJUSTMENT AT SUBIC IN ORDER TO MAKE SHIPBOARD LIFE TOLERABLE IN CASES OF UNCONTROLLED OVERLOADING. ROMULO, VIEWING THIS PROSPECT IN LIGHT HANOI ATTITUDE TOWARDS "KIDNAPPING" OF VIETNAMESE AND ALSO BEING CONCERNED WITH POSSIBILITIES OF POLITICALLY SENSITIVE LEADERS, URGED MARCOS TO GO VERY SLOW. MELCHOR, SUGGESTING THAT MATTER COULD BEST BE VIEWED IN HUMANITARIAN TERMS, URGED USE OF PHILIPPINE RED CROSS, INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, AND UN HICOM FOR REFUGEES, TO FUZZ QUESTION OF GOP OFFENSE TO HANOI. WHOLE MATTER THEN BECAME INVOLVED IN DISCUSSION OF UNCONTROLLED REFUGEES WHO WOULD BE ARRIVING BY SMALL BOAT, AND MARCOS SUGGESTED DISCUSSION BE SUSPENDED FOR IN CAMERA SESSION. BEFORE LEAVING THIS SUBJECT, I READ THEM PERTINENT PARAGRAPH REF A DEALING WITH POLITICALLY SENSITIVE PERSONALITIES.

6. VIETNAMESE WARSHIPS AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT. WE DISCUSSED THIS IN TWO DIMENSIONS: THOSE WHICH CAME TO SUBIC AND CLARK; THOSE WHICH CAME TO OTHER PHILIPPINE FACILITIES. I EXPLAINED OUR LEGAL POSITION ON REASSERTING TITLE. ROMULO POINTED OUT THAT HANOI MIGHT CLAIM TITLE. ENRILE WANTED TO KNOW IF U.S. WOULD ACCEPT VIETNAMESE CREWS IF GOP SEIZED VESSELS AND SHIPS IN BEHALF OF OUR TITLE. THERE WAS ALSO SOME DISCUSSION OF REFUELING SHIPS AND PLANES FOR ONWARD MOVEMENT TO TAIWAN. THIS SUBJECT WAS ALSO RELEGATED TO IN CAMERA DISCUSSION.

7. COMMENT: THIS DISCUSSION FORCED GOP TO COME TO SERIOUS GRIPS WITH SEVERAL MATTERS WHICH THEY HAVE ONLY INFORMALLY CONSIDERED UP TILL NOW. MARCOS SAID HE HOPED TO GET ME FIRM DECISIONS BY LATE TONIGHT OR TOMORROW MORNING. IF I WERE TO PREDICT WHERE WE WILL COME OUT, I WOULD HAZARD A GUESS AS FOLLOWS:

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A. CURRENT OPERATIONS AT CLARK CAN CONTINUE SO LONG AS WE SHOW GOOD FAITH AT REDUCING THE BACKLOG DOWN TO LEVELS PRESCRIBED IN GUIDELINES/ AND ACTUALLY REACH THOSE LEVELS WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS.

B. LOADING ADJUSTMENTS AT SUBIC ALONG LINES PROPOSED AS HUMANITARIAN CONTINGENCY BY CINCPACFLT CAN PROBABLY BE MADE SO LONG AS OUR BASIC SEA LIFT IU FROM VIET-NAM DIRECTLY TO GUAM.

C. UNCOORDINATED VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ARRIVING ON IBSHILIPPINE SOIL UNDER OWN POWER WILL NOT RPT NOT BE TURNED AWAY, BUT GOP WILL LOOK PRIMARILY TO U.S. TO MOVE THEM TO ONWARD DESTINATIONS.

D. THOSE WARSHIPS AND MILITARY PLANES ARRIVING AT CLARK AND SUBIC WILL HAVE TITLES AUTOMATICALLY PASS TO U.S., BUT WE WILL BE EXPECTED TO EVACUATE CREWS TO

GUAM. THOSE SHIPS AND PLANES ARRIVING AT OTHER POINTS
WILL BE IMPOUNDED, CREWS TURNED OVER TO U.S., AND QUESTION
OF TITLE LEFT IN ABEYANCE PENDING HANOI REACTION. IF WE
OFFER TO SHARE SOME OF THIS EQUIPMENT WITH GOP, IT WILL
PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT BE RETURNED TO VIET-NAM.

8. IN PRIVATE SESSION WHICH I HAD WITH MARCOS ON OTHER
SUBJECTS, HE INDICATED DESIRE STAY IN STEP WITH OTHER
ASEAN COUNTRIES ON THIS REFUGEE QUESTION. THEREFORE,
IT IS POSSIBLE HIS OWN VIEWS MAY BE ALTERED BY INDONESIA
OR MALAYSIA. HOWEVER, I FEEL IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE
IMPRUDENT TO PLAN ON BASIS PARA 7. THIS STATEMENT
MUST ALWAYS BE SUBJECT TO CAVEAT OF AWAITING OFFICIAL
GOP VIEWS, WHICH I SHALL PURSUE ASSIDUOUSLY
TONIGHT AND TOMORROW.

SULLIVAN

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